

412      ÉMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND  
EEFORMER

Palatine, the Sistine Chapel, the *stanze* of  
Baffaelle, and  
the Vatican Museum. Signor Bernabei,  
director-general of  
the excavations, accompanied him. on other  
occasions, and  
supplied him with a quantity of notes. As for  
the foolish  
tale that he bribed Vatican servants for  
information, a tale  
which went the round of the press, it was purely  
imaginative.

With two ambassadors, half a dozen *attaches*,  
and a score of  
prominent Italian officials at his disposal, Zola  
had no need  
to apply to any servants whatever.

On quitting Rome he betook himself to  
Yenice and  
Brescia with the object of visiting the Italian  
members  
of his family, the Venetian Petrapolis and  
Frattas, and  
particularly Ms cousin, Carlo Zola, then a  
judge of the  
Brescian Appeal Court. Venice gave him a  
public recep-  
tion, and at Brescia his cousin greeted him with  
open arms.  
Unfortunately, though the novelist, assisted by  
his know-  
ledge of Latin and Provencal, was able to read  
Italian fairly  
accurately, he could not speak it; and as on  
the other  
hand the judge knew no French, an interpreter  
had to be  
provided. In spite of this drawback the  
intercourse was  
very pleasant, and when after a sojourn of  
some days at  
Brescia Zola set out on his journey to Paris, he  
repeatedly  
promised to return. He was never able to do  
so, but his  
wife, who revisited Italy on more than one  
occasion sub-

sequently, took care to keep up the family intercourse which had been renewed after the lapse of so many years.

While Zola was visiting Eome the French military authorities had been busy with the case of Captain Dreyfus, but the latter's court-martial did not begin till December 19, that is, about the time of the novelist's return to Paris; the degradation of the unfortunate officer following on January